

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1 to 6, and cancel Claims 17 to 28 without prejudice.

1. (Amended) An apparatus for the repair of a cardiovascular valve having leaflets comprising a grasper capable of grabbing and coapting the leaflets of the valve, wherein the apparatus is adapted to be introduced to the valve through a controlled entry bleeding site in a wall of the heart or through an artery or a vein.

2. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, [where] wherein the valve to be repaired is a cardiac valve.

3. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 2, [where] wherein the valve to be repaired is a mitral heart valve.

4. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 3, [where] wherein the [patient] valve suffers from mitral regurgitation.

5. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 2, [where] wherein the valve to be repaired is an aortic valve.

6. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 5, wherein the [patient] valve suffers from aortic insufficiency.

7. (As filed) The apparatus of Claim 1, which comprises a coaptor to coapt the valve leaflets with a fastener.

8. (As filed) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the grasper has a distal end comprising a multiplicity of jaws which are freely movable about a joint to permit a range of motion of said jaws when the apparatus is manipulated by an operator.

9. (As filed) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the grasper end is removable from the apparatus.

10. (As filed) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the grasper distal end is disposable.

11. (As filed) The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein the coaptor is adjunctive to, and capable of operating in concert with, the grasper distal end.